

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A printer comprising:

a sheet supply unit in which a stack of sheets can be set;

5 a pickup roller which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets set in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit; and

a cover which covers the other side of the stack of sheets set in the sheet supply unit,

10 characterized in that a forcible curling unit which forcibly curls the sheets set in the sheet supply unit in a sheet width direction is provided.

2. The printer according to claim 1, wherein the forcible  
15 curling unit includes ribs which are provided to the cover to protrude toward the pickup roller so that tips of the ribs will press the stack of sheets set in the sheet supply unit at both sides in regard to the sheet width direction.

20 3. The printer according to claim 1, wherein the forcible curling unit includes a rib which is provided inside the sheet supply unit to protrude toward the cover so that a tip of the rib will press the stack of sheets set in the sheet supply unit at its central part in regard to the sheet width direction.

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4. The printer according to claim 1,

wherein the cover is provided with pressing means which

applies pressure on the sheets set in the sheet supply unit toward the pickup roller, and

wherein the forcible curling unit includes ribs which are provided to the pressing means to protrude toward the pickup roller so that tips of the ribs will press the stack of sheets set in the sheet supply unit at both sides in regard to the sheet width direction.

5. The printer according to claim 1, wherein the sheets are set in the sheet supply unit in the form of a sheet package including a package member containing the sheets.

6. A printer comprising:  
a sheet supply unit in which a stack of sheets can be set;  
a pickup roller which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets set in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds each sheet toward a printing unit; and

a sheet separation unit provided on a downstream side of the sheet supply unit in a sheet feed direction,

characterized in that a forcible curling unit which forcibly curls the sheets in a sheet width direction at a position immediately before the sheet separation unit is provided.

7. A sheet feeding mechanism, comprising:  
a sheet supply unit in which a stack of sheets can be set;  
a pickup roller which contacts and drives one side of the stack of sheets set in the sheet supply unit and thereby feeds

each sheet toward a printing unit;

a sheet separation unit placed on a downstream side of  
the sheet supply unit in a sheet feed direction; and

a forcible curling unit which forcibly curls the sheets set in  
5 the sheet supply unit in a sheet width direction.